

{06/21/07} — Washington DC —Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) hailed the passage of the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, which provides \$3 billion to research global warming and work on new technologies and renewable energy to address this problem. This bill includes a 50 percent increase in energy efficiency and renewable energy, including solar, biofuels, hydropower, and geothermal energy, as well as new vehicle technology and energy efficient buildings and homes, over the President's request. Earlier this year, Congressman Sestak supported legislation to repeal \$14 billion in taxpayer subsidies given to Big Oil companies—earning record profits— and invest in clean alternative energy technologies and energy efficiency.

“As we look ahead to the summer driving season, Americans are already seeing exorbitant rises in gas prices, and this is only the beginning,” added Congressman Sestak. “I am proud to support this legislation which will make us more energy independent, through the support of renewable energy and alternative fuels.”

H.R. 2641, the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2008, provides \$30.3 billion to invest in renewable energies and to strengthen our nation's navigation infrastructure and improve flood control programs. The bill also works to keep Americans safe with a 75% increase in funding for nuclear non-proliferation efforts. Specifically, the bill provides the following:

Reducing Our Dependence on Foreign Oil & Cutting Greenhouse Gas Emissions:

The bill provides \$1.9 billion for renewable energy and energy efficiency programs -- a 50 percent increase in energy efficiency and renewable energy above the President's request. This is on top of the additional \$300 million added in the FY 2007 joint resolution. It also increases, by 40 percent above the President's request, research and development of alternative fuels such as corn based and cellulosic ethanol and biodiesel and a 34 percent increase for research, development and demonstration projects to make solar energy affordable. H.R. 2641 also includes \$22 million to research new ways of generating power from water flow, and \$44.3 million for geothermal energy, neither of which were funded in the President's request. And it provides a 34 percent increase above the President's request to collaborate with industry on developing technologies for improved fuel efficiency such as improved batteries or engines that burn clean diesel.

Since our commercial buildings in the U.S. emit 39 percent of the nation's carbon dioxide, this bill also contains a 70 percent increase above the President's request for research into building

and industrial conservation technologies that would reduce energy demand. This includes developing affordable, net-zero energy use homes. And it restores funding for insulation and other cost-effective energy conservation measures to its 2006 funding level.

It also includes \$150 million, \$20 million above the President's request for research into Climate Change including: modeling using state-of-the-art super computers; monitoring radiation in the atmosphere; and long-term experiments on the impact of increased carbon dioxide levels on forests and other ecosystems.

"Global warming and our addiction to oil are some of the greatest challenges of our time, putting at risk our economy, our environment, and our national security," added Congressman Sestak. "We owe it to our children and grandchildren to act now and this legislation does just that."

Spurring U.S. Innovation and Competitiveness: In another step to jumpstart U.S. innovation and technological advancement, the bill provides \$116 million more than the President's request and \$717 million more than the 2007 level for basic scientific research in the Energy Department Office of Science. Federal investment in long-term basic research is critical to developing the next generation of scientific breakthroughs. U.S. federal funding for research and development has declined steadily over the last decade, and sound science has been compromised by political interference.

Cutting Spending/Strengthening Accountability: The bill also directs the Energy Department to develop a concrete plan to improve its contract management. The Energy Department has been on the GAO list of programs that are at high-risk for waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement for seventeen years in a row. Congressman Sestak was successful in adopting an amendment to the Defense Authorization bill that dealt with the same issues. His amendment will help transform our military by requiring appropriate market research be conducted by the Department of Defense prior to its awarding contracts over \$1million. This ensures that the Department of Defense is not duplicating efforts and wasting funding, and that it is also improving access to military contracts to small businesses.

Strengthening Nuclear Nonproliferation: The bill also cuts \$285 million below the President's request and \$47.5 million below 2007 for his initiative to reprocess spent nuclear fuel and burn long-lived radioactive materials. There are concerns that this project is unsafe, will cost tens of billions of dollars, and could make it far easier for terrorists to obtain plutonium to make nuclear weapons. It also cuts \$632 million from the President's request for 37 specific nuclear weapons

program accounts, including Reliable Replacement Warhead program. The existing stockpile will continue to provide the nation's nuclear deterrent for the next two decades, and certainly until the President has developed a strategic nuclear weapons plan to transform the nuclear weapons complex away from its expensive Cold War configuration to a more affordable, sustainable structure. Finally, the bill offsets these cuts by creating a 74 percent increase in funds available for non-proliferation over last year, for securing nuclear weapons and materials in the former Soviet Republic, as well increasing efforts to prevent them from getting into the United States.

Improving U.S. Waterways and Flood Protection: The bill also includes \$713.4 million above the President's request for the Army Corps of Engineers to address a \$1 billion backlog of operations and maintenance needs to sustain the coastal and inland navigation infrastructure critical to the U.S. economy, and the gaps in flood protection highlighted in Hurricane Katrina. This is particularly important for our region, which has experience floods before including the 2004 flood. That is why Congressman Sestak toured our municipalities to see the impacts of the 2004 floods in our region and to discern how best to address the problem. In particular, he met with Jeff Featherstone, an expert in flood plain mapping from Temple University, about our outdated mapping. We are currently using maps from the 1970s that have different standards and are out of date. Consequently, local ordinances and developers state that certain people are living in flood plains when in fact they are not, and vice versa. This has significant impact not just on insurance rates, but it also means that we are developing and doing water management on bad data, which in some cases could be compounding the problem as developers try to follow ordinances that are based on bad data; or we are ignoring issues that need to be addressed; or we are not fixing items that need to be fixed. This funding will help up address this critical problem. In addition, the Congressman is seeking funding through the Army Corps of Engineers for a Reconnaissance Study, which would cost about \$250,000 to identify the problems, needs and opportunities regarding water resources and water management in the 7th District.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "DeepBlue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to Congress.

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